


# Essential Services of Environmental Health

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# Long Term Goals

- Demonstrate the value and benefits of the Essential Services of Environmental Health
- Clarify the role of Environmental Health in Public Health Practice
- Demonstrate examples of Environmental Health leadership
- Align Environmental Health practice to address contemporary public health issues

# Background

- 1988: The IOM Report: *The Future of Public Health*

# IOM report finding

## Public health system in “disarray”

- chronic under funding
- fragmented efforts
- lack of trained resources
- outdated technology
- confusing legal authority

# IOM report finding regarding Environmental Health

- Disjointed policy development
- Fragmented service delivery
- Lack of accountability
- A weakened public health effort

# The “Core Functions” of Public Health

- Assessment
- Policy development
- Assurance

# Responding to the IOM Report

- Difficulty in communicating the core functions of public health
- Lack of consensus on the purpose and practice of public health



# Background

- 1988: The IOM Report: *The Future of Public Health*
- 1994: The Public Health Functions Steering Committee
  - *The Vision of Public Health*
  - *The Purpose of Public Health*
  - *The Essential Services of Public Health*




# The Vision of Public Health

**“HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES”**



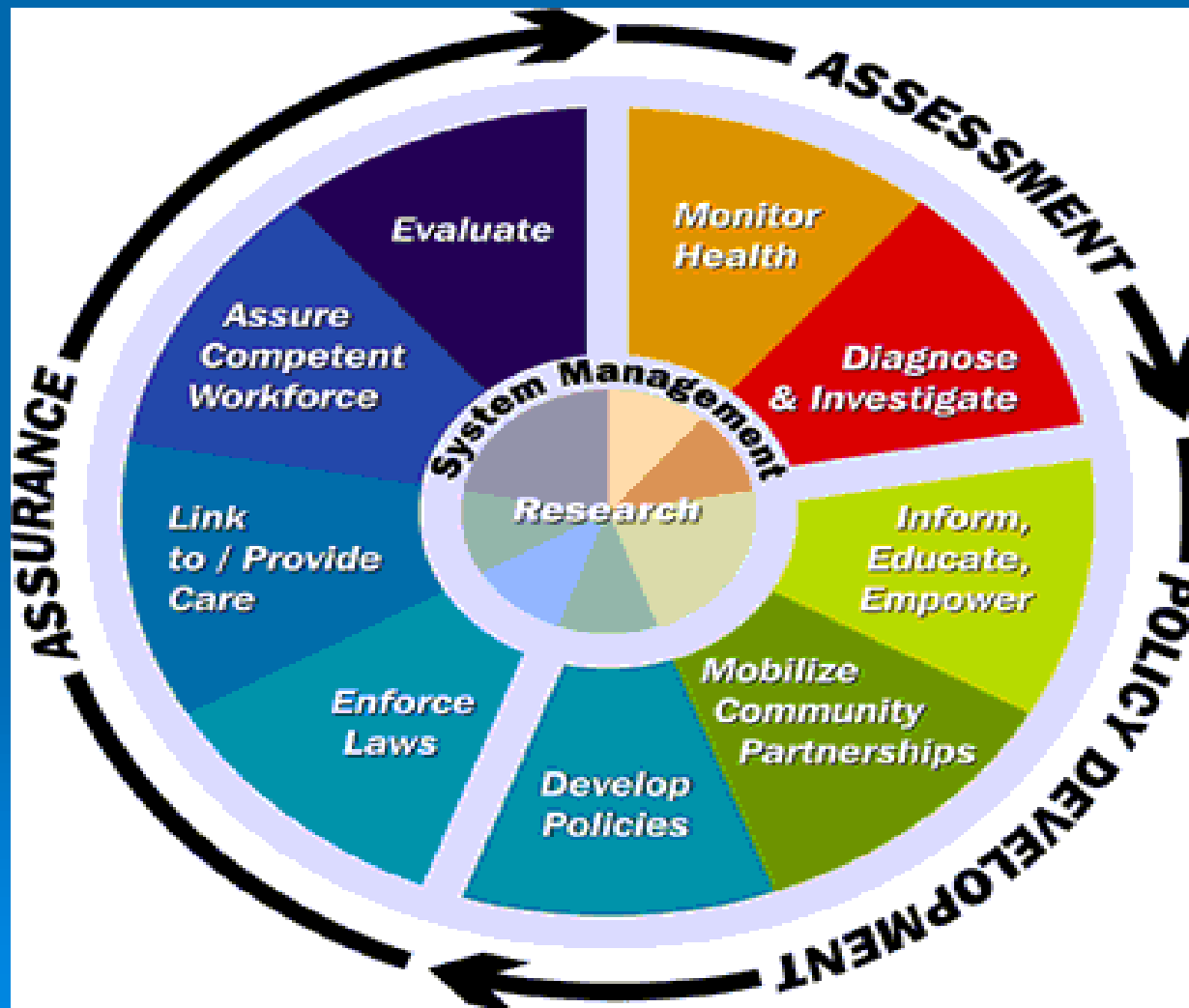
# The Purpose of Public Health

- To prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
  - To protect against environmental health hazards
  - To prevent injuries
  - To promote and encourage health behaviors and mental health
  - To respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
  - Assure the quality and accessibility of health services
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# Ten Essential Services

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose health problems
- Inform and empower people
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people to health services
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate quality
- Research for new insights

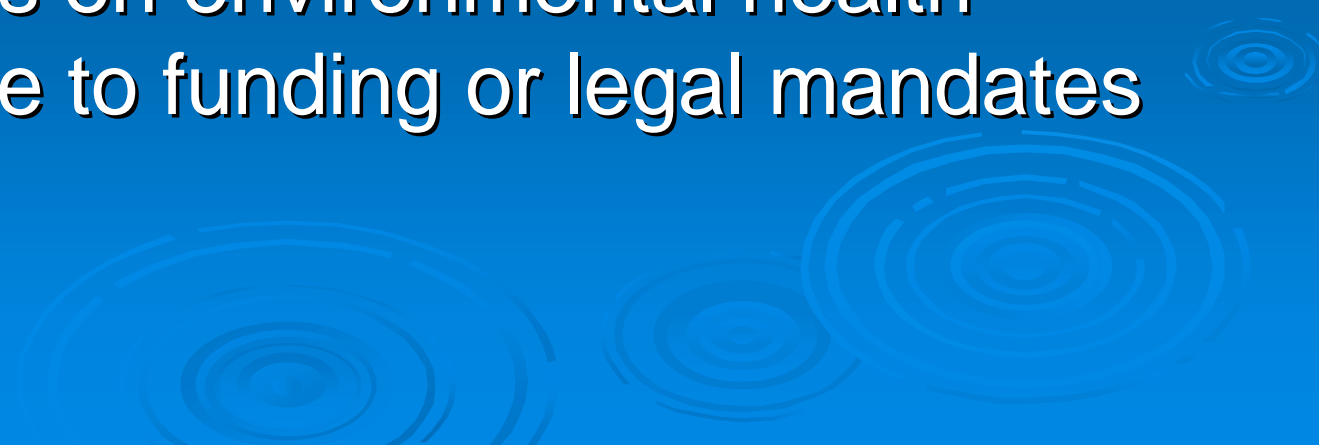
# The linkage of Essential Services to Core Functions



# Background

- 1988: The IOM Report: *The Future of Public Health*
- 1994: The Vision of Public Health in America: *“Healthy People in Healthy Communities”*
- Today: The Essential Services of Environmental Health

# The Status of Environmental Health Today

- An unclear recognition as to what constitutes environmental health
  - An indistinct responsibility for environmental health services
  - Restrictions on environmental health services due to funding or legal mandates
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# Continuing problems ...

- Unavailability of relevant EH data
- Unclear system of workforce development
  - Competencies
  - Diversity
  - Leadership
- Lack of understanding about community perceptions, expectations, and needs around environmental issues

# The Bottom Line ...

- If environmental factors are an important determinant of health status, then ...
- Environmental health should be recognized as an important part of public health practice, and
- If the *Essential Services of Public Health* help to define the **purpose and practice** of public health, then ...
- The *Essential Services* should help environmental health practitioners understand their role in overall public health practice



# The Essential Services of Environmental Health Project



# Purpose

To develop and enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of environmental health workers to successfully incorporate the Essential Services into their daily practice. The project aims to do this by developing a training module that can be used by local and state agencies and academia.

# Funding

National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), CDC, through a cooperative agreement with the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)

# Project Area

## Six Northwestern States:

- Alaska
- Washington
- Idaho
- Montana
- Wyoming
- Oregon

# Specific Project Objectives

- Assess the current knowledge and practice of the Essential Services
- Develop a plan for incorporating the Essential Services into practice
- Develop a training module to communicate the Essential Services plan
- Field test the training module and Essential Services plan in 4 local health departments

# Specific Project Objectives

- Document and evaluate the pilot site experiences to develop case studies
- Complete final training manual incorporating the training needs assessments, pilot site experiences, literature search, key informant interviews, and advisory group input
- Present the use and benefits of the training manual to Schools of Public Health and local and state environmental or public health agencies

# Project Timeline

3 years, beginning October 1, 2001

## ➤ Year 1:

- Training needs assessment
- Essential Services Advisory Committee
- Research
- Key informant interviews
- Select pilot sites

# Project Timeline

## ➤ Year 2:

- Essential Services plan
- Pilot site training
- Pre and post training evaluations
- Case studies

## ➤ Year 3:

- Final training module
- Marketing and distribution



# Links to other projects

## Five CDC grants to build EH capacity

- Island Co., WA
- New Mexico
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Allegheny Co., PA

## Four ASPH grants

- Chicago
- Emory
- Johns Hopkins
- Alabama at Birmingham

## National PH Performance Standards Program

# The Ten Essential Environmental Health Services

- **Monitor** health status to identify community environmental health problems
- **Diagnose and investigate** environmental health problems and health hazards in the community
- **Inform, educate, and empower** people about environmental health problems

# The Ten Essential Environmental Health Services

- **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve environmental health problems
- **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community environmental health efforts
- **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

# The Ten Essential Environmental Health Services

- **Link** people to needed environmental health services and assure the provision of environmental health services when otherwise unavailable
- **Assure** a competent environmental health workforce
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based environmental health services
- **Conduct** research for new insights and innovative solutions to environmental health problems and issues

# Performance Indicators

- Monitoring Health Status (examples)
  - Does the agency have a system in place to assess EH threats?
  - Does the agency have a formal system in place to acquire community input?
  - Does the agency conduct community EH needs assessments?
  - Does the agency have a system for identifying vulnerable populations?

# Essential Services of Environmental Health Advisory Committee

- **Janice Adair**, Director of EH, AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage, AK
- **Susan Brueggeman**, Director of EH, Lake County EH Dept., Polson, MT
- **Richard Kauffman**, CDR, Sr. Regional Rep., ATSDR, CDC, Seattle, WA
- **Laurie Leis**, Mgr, Consumer Health Svcs. Div., WY St. Dept. of Agriculture, Cheyenne, WY

# Essential Services of Environmental Health Advisory Committee

- **Sharon Morris**, Sr. Lecturer and Asst. Chair for Community Outreach, Dept. of EH, SPHCM, Univ. of WA, Seattle, WA
- **Bud Nicola**, MD, Sr. Consultant and CDC Assignee, National Turning Point Office, Seattle, WA
- **Gary Shook**, Sc.D., Program Director and Professor, EH Programs, Boise State Univ., Boise, ID

# Essential Services of Environmental Health Advisory Committee

- **Tom Turco**, Director of EH, Central Health Dist., Boise, ID
- **Bill White**, Asst. Secretary, EH Programs, WA St. Dept. of Health, Olympia, WA
- **Lila Wickham**, Manager, Environmental Health, Multnomah Co. Dept. of PH, Portland, OR



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